

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted in response to the "final" Office Action mailed July 31, 2007. At that time, claims 1-6, 8-16 and 18-20 were allowed. This paper is being submitted within two (2) months of the mailing date of the "final" Office Action in order to obtain an "Advisory Action."

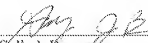
The Examiner indicated that claims 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph on grounds that there was no antecedent basis for the term "the inflator sleeve." As a result of this paper, claim 21 has been amended to address this issue. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,588,793 to Rose (hereinafter "Rose") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,687,987 to Spencer et al. (hereinafter "Spencer"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 21 recites the positive elements that "the outlet port... extends into the diffuser sleeve" and that the "diffuser sleeve is substantially transverse to the inflator sleeve." As indicated by the Examiner, such claim elements are not taught by the cited references. Accordingly, these claim elements render claim 21 patentable over the cited references. Previously, the Examiner had not given these claim elements the appropriate patentable weight because of the problems with section 112 listed above. However, as these section 112 issues have been addressed, these claim elements are entitled to the appropriate weight and render claim 21 allowable. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-27 depend from claim 21 and are allowable for the same reasons noted above. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Appl. No. 10/668,719  
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Reply to Office Action of July 31, 2007

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